

414th BSB – Büdingen, Hanau

Things to do around Hanau . . . Things to do around Hanau

Join the Hanau Community Spouses Club Enjoy tours of Hanau museums, shops and restaurants

Story and photos by Dennis Johnson
414th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

A dozen members of the Hanau German-American Community Spouses Club recently took a tour of a Hanau silversmith's workshop and the Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus, the goldsmith and jewelry museum.

At the J.D. Schleissner Söhne Silversmith workshop, which has been in existence in Hanau since 1816, the women watched craftsmen create fine silver items using centuries-old techniques and a few modern machines. This shop produces a limited quantity of high-quality pieces to be sold in select shops around the world.

Nine generations of craftsmen have worked in this family-run business since Johann Daniel Schleissner founded the workshop in Hanau in 1816. The Schleissner family has an even longer heritage as silversmiths in Augsburg, going back to 1680. Schleissner's past clients have included royalty and wealthy families such as the famous Rothschilds. With such a reputation, the Court of Hesse appointed them "Purveyors of the Court," making them essentially a royally-endorsed workshop.

Over the past three centuries their fine silverwork won many awards in international competitions up to the period of the two world wars. In 1944 the workshops were completely destroyed by Allied bombing only to be rebuilt once again in 1953. In 1956 the company took over the Söhne workshop to become the establishment it is today.

This small family-run workshop creates only limited-edition items such as tea and coffee sets, candle sticks, sacred objects, animal figures, fruit bowls, wine decanters, chalices and a wooden nut dish with a silver animal embellishment that is sold at Tiffany's.

The silversmiths demonstrated to the club how the silver is molded, hammered and finished. "I never knew how handmade silver pieces were made," said Liz Larsen, a HCSC member. "I have a new appreciation for the hours of work and skill that go into each silver piece. Now I know why it costs so much."

It's also quite interesting that the company has kept the designs, and some samples, of every item they've ever manufactured in their archives. It's quite a collection.

For people interested in art history and jewelry design, the Hanau Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus museum is the place to visit. This reconstructed medieval building today houses a center for artwork in precious metals. The museum in the Altstadt Markt is one of the most historically significant buildings in Hanau. Constructed in 1537-1538 during the late Renaissance period as the city hall, by 1900 the building was no longer in use and a museum of Hanau history was established there.

At the start of the 1940s a Berlin jeweler and goldsmith, Ferdinand Richard Wilm (1880-1971), suggested to the city of Hanau to establish a center for the artwork of precious metals in the old city hall. The Deutsches Goldschmiedehaus was dedicated on Oct. 18, 1942 only to be destroyed during the attack



Hanau Community Spouses, German-American, Club members Majella Stober and Maggie Martin speak to silversmith Ingrid Corso who explains the process of creating a handmade silver bowl.

by Allied bombers on March 19, 1945. It was gutted with just the exterior walls remaining standing.

After the war reconstruction was completed in 1958 and the interior was designed specifically as an exhibition site for jewelry and silversmithing. The museum offers permanent exhibits and rotating presentations of various artists as well

as an historic workshop.

After the tour the spouses and their German counterparts in the German-American Club, an off-shoot of the Hanau Community Spouses Club, enjoyed a traditional German meal at a downtown Hanau restaurant. "The Hanau Community Spouses Club is a fun way to get to know people and get involved with the community," said Larsen. "The best part of these trips is getting to know the Germans."

The Hanau Community Spouses Club is open to spouses of all active-duty military. "The Hanau Community Spouses Club is a social club, but our focus is on fund-raising and giving back to the community. We gave approximately \$15,000 last year in scholarships," said Larsen.

The club holds a luncheon every month and plans trips. The club also recently made a tour of the Glaabsbräu brewery in Seligenstadt. "The brewery tour was awesome, and it sure made me thirsty," said Larsen. After the tour of the beer-making process the 30 tourists enjoyed a meal at the brewery's restaurant. "The beer was great and the food was great, and the Spouses Club is a great way to get out and have fun."

To find out more about the Hanau Community Spouses Club and to join call Nicole Gilmore at civ (06181) 906 5188.



The Hanau Community Spouses Club visited Hanau's famous Goldschmiedehaus museum where Robin Hodgson (photo right) examined a gold and shell chalice.





Bulletin board

At the movies March 30 to April 15

Baumholder, Wagon Wheel

April 1 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 2 — Twisted (R) 7 p.m.
April 3 — Piglet's Big Movie (G) 4 p.m.
Twisted (R) 7 p.m.
April 4 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Torque
(PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 5 — Jeepers Creepers (R) 7 p.m.
Jeepers Creepers 2 (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 6 — Gothika (R) 7 p.m.
April 7 — Cradle 2 The Grave (R) 7 p.m.
April 8 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Freddy Versus Jason (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 9 — Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m. The
Butterfly Effect (R) 10 p.m.
April 10 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 4
p.m. Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m. Starsky And
Hutch (PG-13) 10 p.m.
April 11 — Haunted Mansion (PG) 4 p.m.
Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 15 — My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 7
p.m.

Büdingen, Little

April 10 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 3
p.m.

Dexheim, Rhein

April 2 — Hidalgo (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 3 — Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) 7
p.m.
April 4 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 3 p.m.
April 9 — Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
April 10 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 11 — My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 3 p.m.

Friedberg, Old Ironsides

April 1 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 2-3 — Barbershop 2: Back In
Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 4 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 8 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 9-10 — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 11 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.
April 15 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.

Giessen, Skyline

March 30-31 — The Big Bounce (PG-13) 7
p.m.
April 2 — Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 3 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 7 p.m.
April 4 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 6-7 — Barbershop 2: Back In
Business (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 9 — Timeline (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 10 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 11 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.
April 13-14 — 50 First Dates (PG-13) 7 p.m.

Hanau, Evening Star

March 30 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG)
7 p.m.
March 31 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 1 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 7
p.m.
April 2 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
Taking Lives (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 3 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m. Taking
Lives (R) 9:30 p.m.

**Movies and times subject to
change by local theaters.
For the most up-to-date
schedule visit the ASG's
website (see address below).**



Ewan McGregor and Danny DeVito are among a host actors who appear in "Big Fish."

April 4 — Taking Lives (R) 7 p.m.
April 5 — Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 6 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 7 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 8 — Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 9 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m. The Ladykillers
(R) 9:30 p.m.
April 10 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (PG) 4 and 7 p.m. The
Ladykillers (R) 9:30 p.m.
April 11 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (PG) 4 p.m. The Ladykillers
(R) 7 p.m.
April 12 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 13 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.
April 14 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 15 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.

Rhein Main, Gardens

March 31 — Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
April 2 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 3 — Torque (PG-13) 5 p.m. Twisted
(R) 7:30 p.m.
April 4 — Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 7 — Taking Lives (R) 7 p.m.
April 9 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 10 — My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 5
p.m. Hidalgo (PG-13) 7:30 p.m.
April 11 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.
April 14 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.
April 15 — The Ladykillers (R) 7 p.m.

Wackernheim, McCully

March 31 — House Of Sand And Fog
(R) 7 p.m.
April 14 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Flyers

April 1 — Spartan (R) 7 p.m.
April 2 — Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m.
April 3 — Along Came Polly (PG-13)
7 p.m.
April 8 — Taking Lives (R) 7 p.m.
April 9 — My Baby's Daddy (PG-13)
7 p.m.
April 10 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.
April 15 — Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters
Unleashed (PG) 7 p.m.

Wiesbaden, Taunus

March 30 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13)

7 p.m.

March 31 — House Of Sand And Fog (R)
7 p.m.

April 1 — Starsky And Hutch (PG-13) 7
p.m.

April 2 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Spartan
(R) 7 p.m. Along Came Polly (PG-13)
9:30 p.m.

April 3 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 4
p.m. Big Fish (PG-13) 7 p.m. Spartan (R)
9:30 p.m.

April 4 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 4
p.m. Spartan (R) 7 p.m.

April 5 — Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) 4
p.m. Along Came Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 6 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Big Fish
(PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 7 — Disney's Teacher's Pet (PG) 4
p.m. Torque (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 8 — Lord Of The Rings: Return Of
The King (PG-13) 4 p.m. Along Came
Polly (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 9 — Elf (PG) 4 p.m. Taking Lives (R)
7 p.m. Cold Mountain (R) 9:30 p.m.

April 10 — Chasing Liberty (PG-13) 4 p.m.
My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 7 p.m. The
Butterfly Effect (R) 9:30 p.m.

April 11 — Peter Pan (PG) 4 p.m. Taking
Lives (R) 7 p.m.

April 12 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.

April 13 — The Butterfly Effect (R) 7 p.m.

April 14 — My Baby's Daddy (PG-13) 7 p.m.

April 15 — Cold Mountain (R) 7 p.m.



Olivier Martinez and Angelina Jolie search for a serial killer in "Taking Lives."

Movie plots

Taking Lives (R) — When Montreal detectives handling a homicide investigation ask for an outsider's help to get inside the head of a serial killer, FBI Special Agent Illeana Scott (Angelina Jolie) joins the case. As pressure mounts to catch the murderer, Scott's unorthodox methods alienate her from the police team. Alone in an unfamiliar city with no one she can trust, Scott finds herself surrounded by suspects in a case that has become chillingly personal.

Big Fish (PG-13) — Edward Bloom (Albert Finney) has always been a teller of tall tales. His mythic exploits dart from the delightful to the delirious as he weaves tales about giants, blizzards and conjoined-twin singers. Bloom charms almost everyone he encounters except for his estranged son Will (Billy Crudup). When Billy's mother Sandra (Jessica Lange) tries to reunite them, Will must learn how to separate fact from fiction.

Along Came Polly (PG-13) — Ben Stiller portrays Reuben Feffer whose plans for life and love zoom wildly off track when his wife (Debra Messing) dumps him on their honeymoon for a scuba instructor. A chance encounter with an adventure-craving, globe-trotting friend from middle school (Jennifer Aniston) shoots him into a whirlwind of extreme sports, salsa dancing and living in the moment.

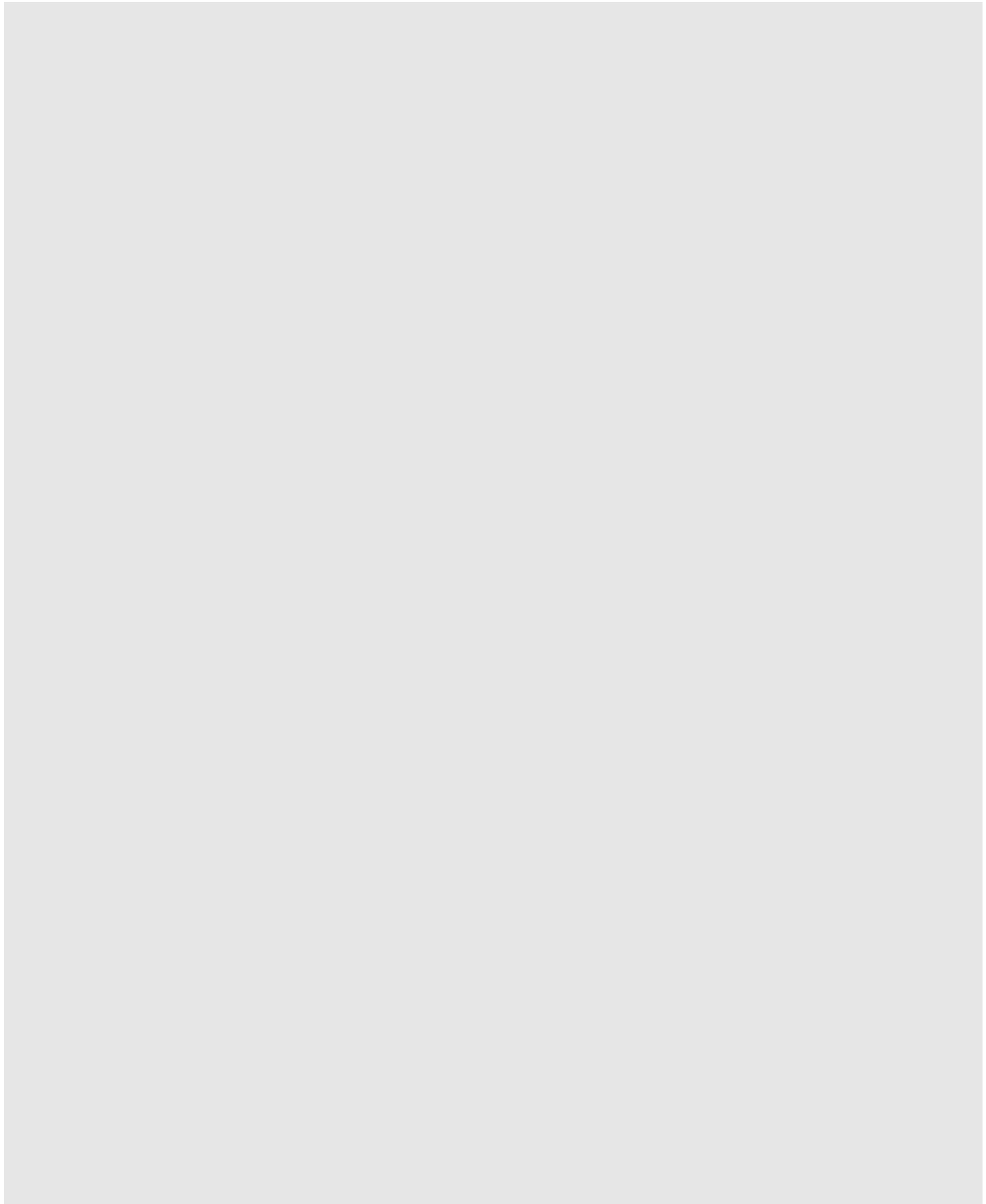
Hidalgo (PG-13) — Held yearly for centuries, the Ocean of Fire, a 3,000-mile survival race across the Arabian Desert, was a challenge restricted to the finest Arabian horses. In 1890 (in this true story) a wealthy Sheik (Omar Sharif) invites an American (Viggo Mortensen) and his horse to enter the race. As a former dispatch rider for the U.S. cavalry once billed as the greatest rider the West had ever known, the cowboy and his mustang, Hidalgo, face the world's greatest Arabian horses.

Barbershop 2: Back In Business (PG-13) — Ice Cube, Cedric the Entertainer, Sean Patrick Thomas, Eve, Troy Garity, Michael Ealy and Leonard Earl Howze are back in Calvin's shop in this sequel. This time Queen Latifah joins the fun as Gina, a stylist at the beauty shop next door.

Cheaper By The Dozen (PG) — When Tom Baker (Steve Martin) gets an offer to coach football at Northwestern University, he and his wife, Mary, move to the big city. It's a big change for them and their 12 children.

The Butterfly Effect (R) — Ashton Kutcher stars as Evan Treborn, who ties his emotional scars in adulthood to the blackouts he had as a child. As he begins to unravel personal truths about his childhood circle of friends, he decides to risk everything, hoping to save the people he loves.

Herald Union classifieds



Schools page — Partners in education



Photo by Karl Weisel

Heather Downey (center) listens to a story read by first-grader Jessica Harper while her daughter Bailey watches the activity during a Reading Recovery certificate award ceremony at Gelnhausen Elementary School March 18. Harper and Downey's son Michael were among seven first-graders recognized for hard work in improving reading and writing skills.

Celebrating Reading Recovery

By David Ruderman
104th Area Support Group Public Affairs
Office

Seven Gelnhausen Elementary School first-graders marked a milestone as independent readers at a Reading Recovery certificate award ceremony March 18.

"Like most children entering first grade, these children loved books and were eager to learn how to read," said Esther Golde, a Reading Recovery teacher at the school. "Unfortunately for them, reading time soon became a painful time. They struggled to do what they saw others seem to do so effortlessly. Their self-esteem and enthusiasm for learning to read began to decline."

It was then that Golde and fellow RR teacher Kim Mitchell stepped in to supplement their classroom instruction and keep them on track.

"Children come in and are identified by observant kindergarten teachers that maybe they need some help," said Janice Hines, the Heidelberg District RR teacher leader, who also attended the ceremony. RR is a short-term, early intervention program designed to improve the reading and writing skills of first-graders who lag behind their peers and bring them up to standard within 16 to 20 weeks, she said.

"We believe reading intervention works best when it begins in the early grades, so why not first grade," said Hines. "They make incredible gains in learning strategies to become independent readers."

"Reading Recovery is the best way to accelerate literacy growth and get children

on grade level," said first-grade teacher Sue Gleason. "It gives them much more self-confidence. They are willing to take more risks and have improved their writing and reading skills."

Students work for half an hour daily with their Reading Recovery teacher in addition to their regular classroom instruction. The teacher takes careful notes on the strategies the child uses when trying to decode a difficult word. Using this information and careful observation, the teacher is able to adjust the instruction to the specific needs of that child, she said.

With titles such as "Father Bear Goes Fishing," "Ratty-Tatty" and "The Monster's Party," all leveled to particular stages of development, the first-graders have plenty to choose from.

Kathleen Gibbs, mother of Alexxa Gibbs, 6, was among the handful of parents and smattering of younger siblings at the award ceremony. Since joining RR Alexxa has been reading regularly at home, "all kinds of books, because she basically couldn't read. She's done remarkably. She's just changed. She really loves reading and she tries," she said.

RR has helped Michael Downey, 7, overcome the frustration that prevented him from making progress before, said his mother, Heather Downey.

"He was very aggressive. He'd hit one word he didn't know and he'd give up. Now he's more enthusiastic and confident about reading. It's amazing because I don't have the patience," she said.

What has made the difference? "Because

I keep learning from Miss Golde," said Michael. "I like to read."

Reading Recovery is particularly helpful in cases where parents are not native English speakers, said Hines. "We act like the parent and provide one-on-one instruction. We might enlist an older child in the school to help or ask another parent to come in and help."

"We all work together as a team," said Mitchell.

"We all work toward the same goal, and that is to help all children become successful readers," said Hines.

Continuing support

The helping hand children receive through RR continues even after they conclude their formal participation.

"Kids are assessed again at the end of the school year to see if they've adopted strategies to continue to improve. The Heidelberg District provides more books for them, and teachers may use a booster class to move them forward. When we feel they've reached that point of being caught up with their classmates, we assess them," said Hines.

"I can honestly look at every single child in this room and know that you've worked very, very hard this year," Mitchell told the RR veterans.

"These are the kids who would never be successful. They know in their classes what's happening. They know what the pecking order is. And we're helping them," said Golde.

The students received certificates and read a story to an adult who was not their own parent before enjoying refreshments. (Esther Golde contributed to this report)

School bits

Spring break coming

Schools across the 104th Area Support Group will close for spring break April 5-9. Instruction resumes April 12.

Preregistration begins

Preregistration for the 2004-2005 school year will begin April 16 for Department of Defense Dependents Schools across the 104th Area Support Group. Returning students will need to bring a copy of the sponsor's most recent orders. New students will also need to bring a passport or birth certificate and shot record. For details and assistance contact your child's school.

No DoDDS break trips

Department of Defense Dependents Schools Europe will not sponsor, sanction or authorize any school trips or vacation excursions for students during spring break, April 5-9. Parents should beware that tours organized by commercial operators and billed as "spring trips for senior" or similar excursions are not connected with DoDDS-E, and parents should exercise oversight. Carefully research such trips and activities and keep heightened force protection concerns foremost in mind while planning activities. (DoDDS-E Public Affairs)

Asian-Pacific contest

Students in Hanau are invited to enter an essay contest on the topic Why Freedom Is Important to Me in honor of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month. Essays should be 200 words. Submissions are due to Sgt. 1st Class Gayden by April 26. For details call mil 323-2012 or civ (06181) 180-2012.

Watson wins gold

Congratulations to Gen. H.H. Arnold High School junior Dionysios Watson, selected Gold Oral Presenter at the annual Junior Science and Humanities Symposium held in Heidelberg March 14-18. Watson, along with four other DoDDS-Europe students, advances to the National Symposium to be held in Baltimore at the end of April.

ROCKS scholarship

The ROCKS, Inc., European Officers Chapter offers scholarships to DoDDS graduates whose parents serve on active duty. Applications are due by April 12. For information and assistance call Capt. Angelo Moore at civ (06371) 86-6298/7707, mil 486-6298/7707 or ask your guidance counselor.

Book Fair in Hanau

Hanau Middle School will host a Spring Book Fair April 14-21. Students can check out titles during lunch hour and all day April 16. Parents are welcome. For details call the school at civ (06181) 906 9710.



Sports and leisure

Soldier makes German national team

Hanau Apache pilot serving in Iraq to play in lacrosse finals

By Pfc. Alma H. Barrus
122nd Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

An AH-64 Apache helicopter pilot for Task Force 1st Armored Division's 1st Battalion, 501st Aviation Regiment now serving in Iraq, has been chosen to be one of 30 players on the 2004 German National Lacrosse Team that will compete for the European Championship in late July.

Capt. John S. Mask, Headquarters and Headquarters Company commander for the Hanau-based unit, and an experienced lacrosse player, is looking forward to playing on one of Europe's most-respected teams in a sport he loves.

"I have played lacrosse since 1989," said Mask. "I played in high school, at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. I played on a local team in Korea when I was stationed there, and I am still a member of my team, the Frankfurt Cosmos, back in Germany."

Mask graduated from West Point



Photo by Karl Weisel

Frankfurt Cosmos control the action during a game last year in Frankfurt.

in 1998 where he played two years of junior varsity and two years of varsity lacrosse, as well as earning a degree in international relations. After Mask earned his commission, he attended flight school in Fort Rucker, Ala. When he arrived at his first duty station in Korea, he wasted no time in finding a lacrosse team to join.

"After moving out to my first duty station in Korea, I didn't hesitate to get on a team there," he said. "The teams I have been on over-

seas in countries such as Korea, Czech Republic and Germany are mainly made up of locals and a few of us Americans."

"The language barrier isn't usually a problem, though," added Mask. "Lacrosse was invented by Native Americans, and most people who have been exposed to the sport know enough English to establish good teamwork."

Mask plays the midfield position in lacrosse, which is the soccer and hockey equivalent of center.

"I'm the guy who does all the face-offs at the beginning," said Mask. "It's a very exciting position; I play defensive and offensive roles at midfield. I use a lot of leadership and teamwork."

When Mask prepared to deploy to Iraq in early 2003, he knew a deployment wouldn't stop him from playing his favorite sport. "I play lacrosse with some of my friends in my unit, and we all brought our lacrosse sticks here with us to Iraq," said Mask. "That shows you how important it is to us."



Capt. John Mask

Playing lacrosse has helped him become a better Soldier and leader, Mask said. "I have learned a lot of leadership lessons as well as perseverance from playing lacrosse that have carried over to my career in the Army. It has made me a better leader."

It is also a good, strenuous physical training workout, added Mask.

"I'm glad that something I do for fun helps me become a better soldier and officer."

Things to do

Theater auditions

Auditions will be held for the Missoula Children's Theater production of "Red Riding Hood" April 12 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. at the Wiesbaden American Middle School gymnasium. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade are invited to audition. Rehearsals will be held April 12-16 from 3:30-8 p.m. "Red Riding Hood" will be presented April 17 at 3 and 7 p.m. in the Wiesbaden American Middle School gym. Call Charlie Fontana or Carol Money at mil 336-2473, civ (0611) 816-2473.

Author to read

Frankfurt's Amerika Haus will feature a reading by New York author Kevin Baker April 27 at 7 p.m. Baker, the author of the 1998 novel "Dreamland," will read from his latest book, "Paradise Alley." Reserve a space by calling civ (069) 9714 4815 or sending an email to Vogtm@state.gov. The Amerika Haus is located just up the street from the Alte Oper at Staufenstr. 1.

Children's summer theater workshop

Wiesbaden's Amelia Earhart Playhouse will hold sign-ups for its Summer Theater Workshop April 26 from 3:30-8:30 p.m. The workshop is open to youths age 8-14. It will run from June 14 to July 25, culminating in a theater production featuring the 25 participants. Cost is \$120. Call Carol at mil 336-2473 or civ (0611) 816-2473 for details.

Country Fest

The Frankfurt Pirates, a German-American non-profit sports organization, will host their sixth annual Country Fest featuring the group Arizona, line dancing and more April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pirates Cove Clubhouse in Frankfurt-Preungesheim, August-Schanz Str. 33. Tickets are €6.50 in advance or €8 at the door. Call civ (069) 541 177.

Concert highlights

Aschaffenburg's Colos-Saal presents the **Spencer Davis Group** April 3 at 9 a.m. Wiesbaden's Community Activity Center will feature a free concert by New York rockers **Wooden** April 17 at 8 p.m. Call mil 336-2473 for details.

Comedy After Dark

Wiesbaden's Victory Point Bar on Wiesbaden Army Airfield features the adults-only Comedy After Dark April 25 at 8 p.m. Call mil 337-5750.

Sports shorts ... Sports shorts ... Sports shorts

Boxing champs

Ten boxers squared off at Wiesbaden's Open and Novice Boxing Tournament March 13. **Hanau's Adam Klakowicz** defeated Giessen's Kevin Hawkins in a welterweight bout. In three middleweight bouts, **Hanau's Raymond**

Myers won a 4-1 decision over Friedberg's Ibban Wilson, **Friedberg's Steven Bores** won a 5-0 decision against Friedberg's Jacob Kaliszewski and **Friedberg's Alector Tavares** took a 5-0 decision versus Hanau's Casey Niles. In the evening's only heavyweight fight,

Friedberg's Daniel Carpenter was awarded a victory over Wiesbaden's John M. McKeel after the referee stopped the contest. The 284th Base Support Battalion team was awarded the team trophy.

Galaxy to open season

The National Football League-Europe kicks off its season with a home game at Frankfurt's Waldstadion April 3 when the Frankfurt Galaxy take on the Amsterdam Admirals. Other home games are April 17 versus the Rhein Fire, May 1 against the Cologne Centurions, May 16 against the Scottish Claymores and May 22 versus the Berlin Thunder. Tickets are available at the Darmstadt USO and through the Galaxy ticket hotline at civ (0180) 5266216.

Softball tourneys

Friedberg Fitness Center holds a One-Pitch Softball Tournament April 10-11. Cost is \$60 per team. Register at any 284th Base Support Battalion fitness center or call mil 324-3155 for details. The 284th Base Support Battalion Unit-Level Softball Tournament will be held April 20-23. Entrance is free for unit-level teams. Register at any 284th BSB fitness center.

Lacrosse action

The Frankfurt Cosmos Lacrosse Club will host the Hamburg Warriors, last year's German Championship runner-up, April 4 at noon at its field at the Sportclub 1880 in Frankfurt (behind AFN Headquarters). The Cosmos seek male and female players of all ages and experience levels. Call Bob Scheider at civ (0173) 585 1333 or email bob@frankfurt-cosmos.de. The University of Federal Armed Forces Germany (Bundeswehr Universitaet) will host an international military lacrosse tournament in the summer or fall at their campus in Munich. Among the teams scheduled to play are the Bundeswehr Universitaet and U.S. military members from the Frankfurt Cosmos, including ex-Army players.

Opel Skyliner tickets

Basketball fans are invited to attend one of the upcoming Opel Skyliner home games at the Frankfurt-Hoechst Ballsport-halle, courtesy of the German federal league team. Free tickets are available for games on March 31, April 11 and April 18. Call the 104th Area Support Group Public Affairs Office at mil 322-1400 for details.



Photo by Karl Weisel

Frankfurt Galaxy open their season April 3 at the Frankfurt Waldstadion.

Sports and leisure

Champion cheerleaders

Top YS teams compete at U.S. Forces meet in Giessen

By Alexandra Williams

284th Base Support Battalion Public Affairs Office

The cheering couldn't have been louder as the Mannheim junior cheerleading team was declared the winner at this year's U.S. Forces Europe Junior Cheerleading Championship. Kitzingen earned runners-up honors at the event held in Giessen's Miller Hall Fitness Center March 20.

"It was a lot of hard work and I am very proud of my team," said Mannheim's coach Grace Duplechan.

"We practiced four, sometimes five days a week for three to four hours. Last year the team won second in the European competition, and it was our goal to get there again. The girls were pushing hard and they won. It's great," she said.

Teams from Mannheim, Bamberg, Hanau, Wiesbaden and Kitzingen competed.

"We were actually expecting Vicenza to participate, but they were beat during their Area Support Group competition by Aviano so they could not attend the U.S Forces Europe competition. Though we only had five teams participating it was a super event," said 284th Base Support Battalion Youth Services sports director Gregory Peck.

The competition also featured exhibition performances by the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders, who served as judges, and the Kitzingen, Giessen and Butzbach bantam squads as well as the Rhein-Main step team.

"I am happy that the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders were able to support the event. I contacted the coach a couple of months ago and she agreed to send 10 cheerleaders to Giessen to be the judges and to perform for the audience," Peck said.

Despite hosting the event the 284th Base Support Battalion did not have a team in the competition.



Members of the Giessen bantam cheerleading team strike a pose during an exhibition performance.



Photos by Karl Weisel

Members of the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders perform for the crowd after judging the competition.

"For the past three years we have not been able to get a group together to participate. That's really sad because I'd love to see Giessen participate in the competition," said Jacqueline Hubbard who coaches the Butzbach bantam cheerleading team.

"The Giessen bantams came in first and Butzbach second at the 104th Area Support Group competition so there is a lot of talent in the 284th BSB. I hope that next year we can get a team," she said.

"The favorite team was actually Vicenza, but since they are not here I am sure that Mannheim will win and I am looking forward to seeing them," Hubbard said.

"I'd love to encourage girls to come out and sign up for a team," said Giessen bantam coach Jennifer Matthews.

"I am impressed with the performances of all teams at the competition, especially the courtesy performance of the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders. They show a spirit of excellence. I want cheerleaders to see good personality, and today they were able to do so," Matthews said.

For most squads it was the first time performing against other teams.

"I am proud and nervous today. We are not in the competition, but we get to perform in front of the others. It's a lot of fun being here. I liked the performance of the Galaxy cheerleaders. They smile a lot and they are aggressive," said Cymoune Hubbard of the Butzbach bantam team.

"I like the competition because I can get new ideas for myself," said Renee Viray, another member of the Butzbach bantam team.

"It's nice to get cheerleaders from other areas together. We watch the other teams and look at what they are doing and incorporate that into our routine," said Kitzingen's coach Kim Kennedy.

"We are not looking to win. It's most important for our girls to participate. We have a young squad and they've never participated before. I want the girls to understand cheerleading is a sport and that they need to work hard and improve to be successful. I hope that this competition will be a learning experience for them," Kennedy said.

"It's two years ago since our junior cheerleaders went to



Janesia Akers competes with the Hanau junior YS team during the U.S. Forces Europe Championship.

a competition and they won first place then. It's the first time for this team and they are very excited, but we've spent long hours practicing," said Wiesbaden's coach Sgt. 1st Class Venita Long of the 27th Transportation Battalion.

"I think it's great that the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders are here. They have a lot of discipline, and seeing them gives my team better hopes for life. They can see that cheerleading can be done as an adult and that it can go on further in life if they work hard," she said.

"My team is very nervous but they practiced a whole lot for this competition and they are very motivated," said Alicia McCrachen, coach of the Bamberg team.

"We were really impressed with the Frankfurt Galaxy cheerleaders. They are so together, and their performance was great. The girls in my team were surprised to see adult cheerleaders. I hope that today's competition will build their self-confidence and that they'll have a good time."

"Before the competition we told the girls that we have to be in the top five ranking. When we arrived in Giessen we heard that only five teams are competing. So no matter what happens we reach our goal," said assistant coach Allison Tucker.

The performances of the young girls left professional cheerleaders impressed.

"The kids are great. It's my second time here and I admire their presentation. I wish I could just take them with us," said one of the Galaxy cheerleader judges.

"The Rhein-Main step team was really great. The others were also great. I could see that they have fun. It's too bad that we don't have cheerleading teams for young girls in Germany," said another judge.

"The competition was super and all teams are winners—no matter what the outcome is," said Peck.

"It was a pleasure for us to host this competition even though we had no team to participate. Without the help of the sports staff we would have not been able to host it though. They have worked hard to set everything up and it was worth it. As a matter of fact we are hosting next year's competition too and I am looking forward to that," Peck said.